

Preface

The US Army must be prepared to fight and achieve victory in combat operations conducted anywhere in the world. Moreover, the Army must be prepared to conduct military operations in support of national policy objectives through tactical engagements and logistical support at any level of intensity within the spectrum of conflict. It must be ready for war in deserts, arctic regions, jungles, and mountains, as well as in urban areas. It must be ready to defeat modern and well-equipped armies, as well as small, lightly equipped irregular forces. Training exercises help achieve the high level of readiness needed to defeat the enemy.

Training exercises provide an excellent environment for the simultaneous performance of multiechelon responsibilities to evaluate and to sustain the skills of soldiers, leaders, teams, staffs, and units. Exercises simulate battle conditions to train leaders, staffs, and units in their wartime missions. They also train leaders for mission-unique conditions and for applying the best tactics to the unit mission, enemy, terrain, and troops available (METT). Some exercises employ minimal troop support in providing commanders and staffs realistic practice in executing wartime missions. Other exercises combine complete units, including those from other services and nations in order to train critical teamwork and coordination skills.

This manual provides commanders, staffs, and exercise planners with doctrine, guidance, and examples for planning, conducting, and controlling training exercises.

FM 25-4, which is one of the 25-series of training manuals, covers the conduct of training exercises. Beginning with fundamental training theory, this manual discusses how to determine training needs and how to plan for and conduct the appropriate exercises. It concludes with sample scenarios for exercises.

This manual is written for commanders, staffs, and exercise planners primarily at battalion level and above. It applies to both Active and Reserve Component units. The concepts described herein, however, are applicable at any level. It applies to combat arms, combat support, and combat service support units.

The proponent of this publication is the US Army Training Board. Submit changes for improving this publication on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) and forward it to the President, US Army Training Board, ATIC-TBT, Fort Eustis, VA 23604-5170.

Unless otherwise stated, whenever The masculine or feminine gender is used, both are intended.